

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: July 20, 2021

Time: 10:00am

Place: Via Zoom Meeting  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Chairman George McGurn was absent.

Others present via zoom: Mary McGurn, and for parts of the meeting Alice Boyd, Cassie Marsh, Jake Nerzig, Austin Hunt and Donna Bersch-Gordan.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the July 6 meeting were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 10:01am the hearing for the FY 21 round of the Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehab program was called to order. Alice Boyd read the hearing notice. Cassie Marsh explained that Egremont would be the host community for the FY 21 round in the amount of \$1,300,000.00 with the Town's of Monterey and Great Barrington. This is a program for 0% interest, deferred, forgivable loans to property owners who meet certain income requirements. This is the third round of grants that Egremont has participated in. 28 homes in Egremont have benefited There is currently a waiting list of applicants, 1/3 of which are from Egremont. The Board voted unanimously and enthusiastically to apply for a FY 21 grant and to be the host town for the regional application. The hearing closed at 10:07am.

The Board held a short interview with Jake Nerzig for a possible position as a Van Driver. Mr. Nerzig was informed of the delay in receiving the van and said he, though he preferred something sooner than later, he had no issue with waiting. He said he was interested in any hours, either paid or volunteer. The Board expressed its support for his application and thanked him for his time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated has asked the several town departments review the data on the Mount Washington Road reconstruction project and return comments. The Board is happy to see this project moving forward on the TIP list. The Board will ask other town departments to funnel their comments through the Selectboard's office.

The Board tabled the Chapter 61A request. There is concern over the recent increase being seen in requests to release the right of first refusal on Chapter lands as it seems some large property owners are taking advantage of the high real estate sales to sell off sections of their land.

The Board discussed with Austin Hunt his request for a peddlers license to solicit door to door for Southwestern Advantage. Legal Counsel has ruled that the town can deny door to door solicitations. Mr. Hunt is doing this as an internship and the essence is personal growth and learning how to run a business. He makes a commission on the sales. The books are educational in nature. The Board and Mr.

Hunt agreed to not issue a permit as there are concerns, such as security, not specific to Mr. Hunt or his organization. Mr. Hunt, who has been canvassing in all of Southern Berkshire County, will likely be assigned another town in the area.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the low bid of 6 bids received for blacktop on McGee and Warner Roads from LB Corporation at \$74,037.69. The high bid was \$98,010.

Donna Birsch-Gordan explained that she, Matthew Bersani, Mary McGurn, Rolfe Tessem and Jeff Lazarus have volunteered to be a Citizen Outreach Working Group to look ways to improve communications between the town and its citizens. One key focus will be the town's web page which is using outdated technology and formatting. This would be a temporary un-appointed advisory group that will report back to the Selectboard. Selectboard member Mary Brazie will serve as the liason to the group.

The Board unanimously approved a request for IWOW to use the bandstand at French Park on August 3, and possibly September 7 and October 5, for their open mic night for poets, storytellers, and musicians. Approval on the second and third date will be confirmed if there are no issues with the first date.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Tom Reynolds joined the meeting to briefly report that the water storage for the gardens at French Park could be raised but it would not have any positive effect on the water flow unless raised to about 20' which could be dangerous. A pump could be installed at considerable cost as there is no electricity in the area. Fortunately with the recent weather, watering hasn't been an issue at the gardens. He also noted that it seems to him some people are over watering and that this year it looks like some of the raised beds are not being used. Vice-Chair Vermeulen will follow up with Greenagers.

The Historical Commission has formed a 2021 Birthday Celebration group consisting of Rebecca Turner, Barbara Kalish, Abigail Reeves-McKee, and Douglas Cooper. The recognition for essential workers will be presented broadly to recognize all. The Librarian will have available a hand out with information on services the Library provides beyond what is physically in-house. The Commission will be asked to video the event. Planning for the town's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration should begin now as it only is 3 years away.

#### GRANTS:

Vice-Chair Vermeulen has not had a return message from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission regarding the Technical Assistance Grant. The information will be forwarded to Mary McGurn for discussion with the Planning Board.

#### COVID-19:

Town Officials will be reminded that they need to sign in when entering Town Hall.

#### FOLLOW UPS:

The Board will take a tour of Fiber Connects new facility at 17 Sky Farm Road in Egremont on July 27 at 9am. At 10am on July 27 state officials will be meeting with Fiber Connect on-site regarding the pole locations at Brookvale and Hilltop Roads. On July 28<sup>th</sup> the broadband team is meeting to further discuss the low income subsidy.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 10am instead of Tuesday, August 3.

Adjournment 11:14am

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.22/jul20